



THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

A Research Center for Horse and Field Sports

Spring 1994 No. 39

Laura Rose, Editor

The Curator's Kingdom *by Cristina Del Sesto*

While Shakespeare's King Richard III would have given his kingdom for a horse, Alexander Mackay-Smith would be content to give his horse and kingdom for a book.

Of course, it wouldn't be just any tome. "The Duke of Newcastle's 1657-1658 book on dressage," he says without hesitation. "It's rare and magnificent."

Though perhaps best known as the longest serving editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, former master of the Blue Ridge Hunt, prolific author, and violin virtuoso, Mackay-Smith, 91, has also been curator of the National Sporting Library since its inception 40 years ago.

He knew it was a good idea and helped develop it into a solid working library. "But it wasn't a collector's library," he says, "until last July when the Ohrstrom Foundation purchased the greatest collection on horsemanship in the Western Hemisphere, the von Hunersdorf Library." The 205 titles, ranging in date from 1528 to



Alexander Mackay-Smith

THOMAS WOLFF PHOTO

the 1900s, include Mackay-Smith's favorite: the Duke's *Method et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux*, bound by the official court binder to Charles II.

There are other libraries devoted to horses, notably the Keeneland Library in Kentucky. But, Mackay-Smith says, there was a need for a public library specifically committed to sport in North America. "This was not going to

be a library of tiddlywinks," he says. "We wouldn't take in all sports which would include chess and cards. It would be in keeping with the background of the *Chronicle*: horses, hounds and field sports."

The collection evolved slowly—mostly because there was no place to put the books. At the time, the *Chronicle* was crammed into the narrow Anna Duffey house on Middleburg's main street, and the Library was in Mackay-Smith's barn in White Post, Va.

"The Library started under the auspices of the Internal Revenue Service," Mackay-Smith says. "We presented tax deductions to our donors and that was the provision that sparked a majority of the contributions." One of the first major donations—in the mid-1950s—was a complete set of the 15 volumes of the *American Turf Register* (1829-1844) in their original wrappers.

In 1969 the *Chronicle* moved into Vine Hill, and the Library into its basement and fireproof vault, which now houses 11,000 books. About 95 percent focus on horses, hounds, horse sports and racing. The other 5 percent of the collection is on related field sports—fishing and shooting—along with books on the architecture of

Special 40th Anniversary Issue

Founded in 1954, the NSL is celebrating its 40th year. In recognition, this special issue highlights the Library and three of its most important associates: Curator Alexander Mackay-Smith and board members Ellen B. Wells and Bill Steinkraus.

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kennels and stables, and the horse in art. The Library is also very strong in 19th-century periodicals and offers a complete index of the *American Turf Register*.

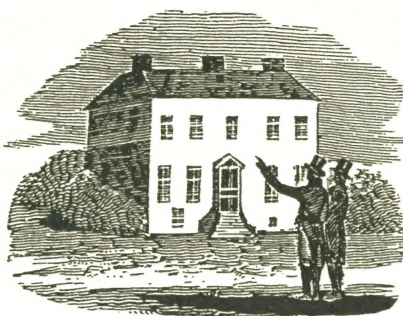
Neither Came First

As a scholar himself, Mackay-Smith has relied heavily on the Library for his research—and vice versa. "It's a chicken and egg kind of thing," he says. "My research and the Library progressed together." Mackay-Smith started his own personal collection of equestrian books in the 1930s, but gives them away as soon as he's written about the subject of their contents. "It's the information inside that interests me," he says. In sheer numbers, he is far and away the largest donor to the Library.

Right now his armoires are full of racing books. *Speed and the Thoroughbred Race Horse* will be Mackay-Smith's ninth or tenth book—he forgets which—and is due to be published in 1995. He's been laboring for three years. "It's plugging," he says, "though I'm sustained by the excitement for the thesis. I write in longhand and use a closed-circuit TV magnifier. I like to write a sentence and leave it, but I'll spend 10 minutes before I put it down."

Each of his efforts, from *The Thoroughbred in the Lower Shenandoah 1785-1842* to *Man and the Horse* (for the Metropolitan Museum of Art) to *The Colonial Quarter Race Horse* to *Foxhunting in North America*, are considered definitive works on their respective subjects. "I try to find a topic which to me is fascinating and about which no book has ever been written about in depth. I try to make it such a good book there will be no necessity for writing another."

So far the tactic has proven very effective. "I want to have the last word," he says. "I've done a lot of study and I don't need to have some-



Fruits of the Vine

Architectural plans have been drawn for a library building for The National Sporting Library and an office building for *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine, to be constructed on the seven-acre Vine Hill property in Middleburg. The Library building will emphasize proper storage spaces for books and materials, efficient work spaces for staff, and pleasant study areas for readers.

The 1804 Vine Hill mansion, the home of the *Chronicle* and the Library since 1969, will be renovated. There are many possibilities for its future use, perhaps as a museum or an office building for national horse organizations.

When you visit Middleburg, stop by. We'll be pleased to show you preliminary building plans drawn by architect Thomas Beach and his staff at Earth Design Associates, Casanova, Va. We think you'll like what we have in mind.

body else coming around showing that I didn't do a good job."

Egg and chicken. Chicken and egg. Whichever came first, Mackay-Smith acknowledges that the National Sporting Library and its librarians have been invaluable. "I could not have written all these books without the Library," he says. "I wouldn't have known about some of the research material and some of it—even if I was aware of its existence—would have been difficult to get my hands on."

Next On The Agenda

Now that the Library has reached a position of worldwide status, some might think the von Hunersdorf ac-

quisition would placate Mackay-Smith. At least for awhile. But, he's restless again. "I'd like to improve on its cramped quarters," he says. "Not that it's affecting the books adversely, but one always likes to improve things."

He may soon get his wish. Plans have been drawn for new architectural spaces that would house the Library and the *Chronicle* on the Vine Hill property. He talks of the future with confidence. There's his book to be published, a library to build, horse races to attend . . .

He's intense. Much more so than he imagined when "peacefully practicing corporation law" in New York back in the 1930s. Upon seeing Clarke County for the first time he knew his home—and his mission—would be Virginia. "I was like St. Paul on the way to Damascus—I had a revelation," he says. "It's been all horses and hounds ever since. Really, a pretty narrow range."

Cristina Del Sesto is the senior editor at The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Washington, D.C. She contributes regularly

to The Washington Post and national magazines.



THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Spring 1994, No. 39
published three times a year by
The National Sporting Library
301 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 1335
Middleburg, Virginia 22117
(703) 687-6542
Laura Rose, Editor



USSET PHOTO

Bill Steinkraus

Confessions of a Hippobibliomaniac

by Bill Steinkraus

I am a compulsive book collector. This does not mean that I have assembled an "important" library, or even a very valuable one. But I have a lot of interests, and a lot of books, new and old, about each of them. Whenever I develop a new interest I try to identify the really good books on the subject, and start looking for them. I do this because of the benefit and pleasure I have obtained by collecting books about my manifest passion, horses, and I recommend the practice to anyone who can read. The main difficulties are money and shelf space, and these can be overcome if you are determined enough.

My collecting career started with a single book, and thus I did not realize what was happening. I was nine and only an aspiring rider, and the book was *Riding* by Lady Huntloke and Cecil Aldin. It was a modest little book but full of good advice, and by the time I got my first pony ride I had committed most of it to memory. I still have it.

By the following Christmas I owned *Black Beauty* and *The Book of Famous Horses*, and had started a list of horse books I owned. Aside from an insatiable acquisitiveness, which I already had, the main thing a true collector needs is some sense of discrimination, and before long I was developing this, too, again without realizing it. It happened with my first genuinely beautiful and significant horse book—Harry D. Chamberlin's classic *Riding and Schooling Horses*, in its Derrydale Press first edition of 1934. Chamberlin was arguably the finest horseman the U.S. Cavalry ever produced, architect of the Cavalry School manuals and a multiple Olympic medalist. I have used many of his ideas about riding ever since, though for some years I forgot where I'd learned them.

The Derrydale Press, which published limited-edition sporting books, was founded and presided over by Eugene V. Connett, an expert fly fisherman and wing shot and an ardent

typophile. Connett had excellent taste, and his books reflected it. They were printed on laid paper with generous margins, individually signed and numbered, and handsomely illustrated. The press produced and issued some 169 titles before falling prey to World War II's Wartime Production Code in 1941. They are still very much sought after today, the scarcer titles commanding prices many times their original cost.

Nobody had to explain to me that my Chamberlin book was a special book that deserved special care. I have referred to it often through the years, but it is still a clean, tight copy. I've since acquired a lot more Derrydales, and many other "special" books as well, but it was surely the Chamberlin that first taught me to distinguish between ordinary books and fine books—books that remain a delight to the eye and the touch for their production, as well as to the brain for their content. In retrospect, the Derrydale books also taught me the key elements of Connett's publishing philosophy, which involved the production of beautiful books written by people who were themselves especially proficient in the activities of which they wrote. I was proud to succeed Gene Connett as sporting editor of the old New York firm of D. Van Nostrand in 1968, and equally proud to have been instrumental, in my subsequent publishing career, in producing a number of books that meet his special criteria.

Rustling Up Cowboy Books

I must confess that at about this time I also entered a cowboy phase, from which I have never entirely emerged. It was triggered by the Will James books published by Scribner's—*Smoky*, *Lone Cowboy* and the rest, which were still in print and still appearing in the 1930s. These were not printed on handmade paper, but were nicely manufactured, authoritative about all sorts of Western lore, and marvelously well illustrated by their self-taught artist/author. (It was a surprise to learn, many years later, that James was a convicted cattle-rustler before he became

a published author.) From James I gained some valid insights into the way horses think, and a real appreciation for the West and its vernacular.

Like many of my generation, I also collected the work of Paul Brown, who was published by both Derrydale Press and Scribner's. As an artist he was just as idiomatic and fastidious about technical detail as James, but instead of the West, he concentrated on 'chasing, polo and fox hunting. I still have all of my Will James and Paul Brown books.

New Interest in Old Books

In 1942 I went off to war, and did no book collecting for the duration except for my outfit's regimental history. But once back at Yale I started to pick up an interest in antiquarian books, prompted by the interests of some of my professors and the exhibitions at the Yale Library. In 1948, midway through my senior year, I went to England to see the Olympic Games (little dreaming that I would ever ride in them myself), and found myself drawn into the shops of some of the great English booksellers I'd read about.

I was dazzled by what I saw. As a student I clearly couldn't afford the great 19th-century color plate sporting books in their first editions, but I could afford antiquarian music, which was easily found and dirt cheap. For a while most of my mad money went in that direction, and my collection of horse books grew more slowly. Sporting historian Alexander Mackay-Smith, a fiddle and viola player like myself, had done about the same thing a few years earlier; his remarkable collection of antiquarian chamber music now resides at the University of Virginia.

On my next trip to London I became aware of J.A. Allen's The Horseman's Bookshop. Joe Allen cut his teeth as a bookman on art books and modern first editions, but he really hit his stride with horses and became an authority on every aspect of the literature.

Joe sold me a lot of books over the years, but one of the very first was probably the most important to me: the great F.H. Huth bibliography *Works on Horses and Equitation*. Bibliographies are prime essentials for the collector, for if you don't know what exists, how can you know what you're looking for, and how can you give your collection any shape? Two more recent bibliographies are also indispensable: Ellen B. Wells' *Horseman-*

ship: A Bibliography of Printed Materials from the Sixteenth Century through 1974 and John B. Podeschi's *Books on the Horse and Horsemanship, 1400-1941*.

It was undoubtedly Huth who gradually diverted some of my attention from works on foxhunting to the literature of equitation. When I started looking for these, I had a very pleasant surprise. Though the older books in English were very pricey, many in foreign languages were distinctly affordable, except the great illustrated books by authors such as Pluvinel, Gueriniere and Newcastle, whose prices have always been supported by the print dealers.

This happy circumstance meant that a collector of relatively modest means could still acquire many of the most significant texts in the history of equitation, in good reading copies if not the first editions, without facing immediate bankruptcy. I proceeded to do just that. It put a lot of pressure on my dubious command of foreign languages, but it was worth it.

From then on, my progress as a collector was quite predictable. I sought out additional bibliographies about everything that interested me; read a lot of "books about books" by people like John Carter and Holbrook Jackson; and even bound some shabby "reading" copies myself until I realized it wasn't all that cost-effective. And I bought a lot more books. Predictably, too, I now sit entirely surrounded by them, wondering how I can possibly scrape up the money to buy more and find the room to shelve them. But I wouldn't change it for anything.

Why should you read and collect horse books in the first place? For pleasure, of course, and to improve your riding by improving your knowledge and your technical resourcefulness. Many of the techniques I have used in my own riding for my whole career were first encountered in books, from Lady Huntloke on. Just possessing a beautiful, historically significant object is a delight for many of us, and may often prove a sound investment as well.

But there is another, subtler reason I would like to commend to you which is rarely mentioned. A good working knowledge of the literature of any activity gives you a vocabulary, both of terminology and concepts, that will enable you to converse with your more thoughtful peers, and this in turn permits you not only to learn from them, but also to understand them much more intimately as people. In this sense book knowledge can be not so much an end as a beginning.

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Welcome New Friends

Irving V.M. Abb/Frederick, Md.
 Paul F. Anisman/Toronto, Ontario
 Mrs. Charles Baird III/Middleburg, Va.
 Evelyn Blackmon/Nashville, Tenn.
 Perry J. Bolton/Brooklandville, Md.
 Mrs. B. Rionda Braga/Middleburg, Va.
 Blake Brandon/Natural Bridge, Va.
 W. Snowden Carter/Owings Mills, Md.
 Mary Phillips Coker/Middleburg, Va.
 Lisbeth Connor/Frederick, Md.
 Peter W. Cook/Berwick, Maine
 Marcie Cowie/Hunt Valley, Md.
 Selene Deike/Cass, W. Va.
 Hilary P. Farnham/Millboro, Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. Kent Ford/
 Millboro Springs, Va.
 Thomas P. Hafer/Woodbridge, Va.
 Jill K. Hassler/Colora, Md.
 Mr. and Mrs. Francis N. Iglehart/
 Monkton, Md.
 Dr. Ardesbir B. Irani Jr./Leesburg, Va.
 Mary Law-Douglas/Plattsburgh, N.Y.
 Ann Lyne/Hot Springs, Va.
 Elizabeth Manierre/Middleburg, Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mattson/
 Wamego, Kan.
 Colleen Holt McCauley/Haverford, Pa.
 Fay Moore/New York, N.Y.
 Irvin Naylor/York, Pa.
 Nick Nichols/Rochelle, Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. Greg Noell/
 Ellicott City, Md.
 Carol Noggle/Fairfax Station, Va.
 Glenn Petty/Warrenton, Va.
 Deborah G. Pritchard/Middleburg, Va.
 Joseph L. Rackley/Surfside Beach, S.C.
 Douglas C. Rawnsley/Danville, Pa.
 Richard S. Reeves Jr./
 Basking Ridge, N.J.
 Holly Rich/Butler, Md.
 Mr. and Mrs. John S. Rodes/
 Goshen, Ky.
 Thomas Ryder/York, England
 Sam Savitt/North Salem, N.Y.
 Cathy Shaw/Raleigh, N.C.
 Kathleen F. Smith/Berryville, Va.
 Kitty P. Smith/Delaplane, Va.
 Elizabeth Southall/Upperco, Md.
 Libby Stokes/Castle Rock, Colo.
 Sarah Buchanan Summy/
 Douglassville, Pa.
 Friedrich Teroerde/Ratingen,
 West Germany
 Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Turner/
 Herndon, Va.
 Gwendolen Underwood/
 Princess Anne, Md.
 Frank Whiteley Jr./Camden, S.C.

WELLS 101

by Laura Rose

In perusing a rare book catalogue full of old and rare horse books, you come across them again and again at the end of book descriptions. Wells 5416. Wells 4606. Wells 2103. Wells 673. What in the world do these numbers mean?

The numbers refer to entries in Ellen B. Wells' *Horsemanship: a Bibliography of Printed Materials from the Sixteenth Century through 1974* (New York: Garland, 1985). The book, which contains listings for 8,557 books, pamphlets and serials on the horse, is one of the most important works in the history of horse book bibliography. When dealers give a "Wells number," they're giving buyers a clue: look to the Wells bibliography under this number to find out all the nitty-gritty details about the book, such as the author, publication date, edition, number of pages and so on.

Mention the idea of "Wells numbers" to Ellen B. Wells herself, who happens to be chief of Special Collections at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, D.C., and you get a giggle.

"It's amusing," said Wells, who also serves as a member of the NSL's board of directors. "Very amusing. I think (book dealer) Robin Bledsoe started it, using 'Wells numbers' when she could. These days dealers still use them, even though my book is out of print."

Of course, dealers also refer to other important horse book bibliographies. "Huth numbers" lead one to William Henry Huth's *Works on Horses and Equitation*, published in 1887, and "Mennessier numbers" to Gabriel Rene Mennessier de La Lance's *Essai de Bibliographie Hippique*, published in two parts in 1915 and 1917. Wells cites these sources, and 4 1/2 additional pages worth, in her own bibliography.

How did Wells end up in the bibliography business in the first place? A few decades after the publication of Mennessier's work, along came Wells, who had always been crazy for horses (she still has a retired Thoroughbred), books and, not surprisingly, horse books. In working her way through library school at the University of California at Berkeley, she ended up with a position in library acquisitions, where she saw her first rare book dealer's catalogues. Before long she was hooked.

"I was attracted to working with the rare books because it's an open-ended thing," Wells said. "Nothing is cut and dried, partly because before 1800 so much was done by hand—the paper, the ink, the typesetting, the binding. Many books that look alike aren't quite alike. There are always little variants that provide a lot of interest."

Wells began to apply her new knowledge to her own field of interest—horses. In doing so, she made a discovery that had a major impact on her life, not to mention her leisure time.

"I began to look for bibliographies on horsemanship, and I saw that there was a void," she said. "Nothing had been done since Mennessier. There were specialized bibliographies for things like racing, foxhunting and Derrydale Press books, but nothing general about the horse that covered European languages."

Hitting the Books

Armed with the tools of the trade—3 x 5 index cards—Wells set out to fill the void.

She looked under "horse" in every card catalog that she came across. She sought out old and rare bibliographies. She wrote to magazine publishers for information on their publications. She read as many rare book dealers' catalogues as she could get her hands on.

"I was attracted to working with the rare books because it's an open-ended thing. Nothing is cut and dried, partly because before 1800 so much was done by hand—the paper, the ink, the typesetting, the binding. Many books that look alike aren't quite alike. There are always little variants that provide a lot of interest."

She traveled to see collections of horse books, such as the Fairman Rogers Collection of the New Bolton Veterinary Center of the University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square; the California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Library in Arcadia, Calif.; and the NSL collection. She also traveled overseas in search of elusive horse book titles.

"I took a trip to England and spent a great deal of time in the British Museum Library," she said. "By then I had met Anne Grimshaw, who was working on her bibliography of the horse in Britain (*The Horse: A Bibliography of British Books 1851-1976*), and we actually spent days and days side by side at the British Museum, looking at things and working in tandem, as it were. Eventually we wound up doing the Black Beauty book (*The Annotated Black Beauty*) together."

"I think Anne found me through J.A. Allen. He has more contacts with horse book lovers than anyone else alive, with friends and acquaintances around the world. During the final stages of work on the bibliography, I took a month's vacation and worked for him in his shop (The Horseman's Bookshop, London). I had the chance to go through his warehouse storage units, where he had his older books, and see things physically. That was a big help."

The end result of years of fact gathering (and remember, this was before the personal computer boom): masses and masses of 3 x 5 cards that Wells compiled; compiled information that she painstakingly typed onto oversized sheets of paper; oversized sheets of paper that she eventually handed over to her publisher as camera-ready copy for her 282-page book.

Bibliography may sound like a quiet road to tread, but it is certainly not a vocation for the weak of will or spirit. Wells worked on her bibliography on the side while she held positions at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.; the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Canada; Cornell University Library, Ithaca, N.Y.; and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. The path—from first steps to the book's final publication in 1985—took over 20 years. For almost the entire time that she labored, she had no guarantee that her work would ever be published.



THE WARBLOOD GUIDEBOOK. Charlene Strickland. Half Halt Press, 6416 Burkittsville Rd., Middletown, Md. 21769. 1992. 253 pp. Illus. Index. Bibliography. \$34.95.

You've seen them tackle the big cross-country fences, perform flawless dressage tests and cruise around jump-offs with ease, but are you still confused about Warmbloods? I was, and continue to be, though much less so now that I've read Charlene Strickland's *The Warmblood Guidebook*.

Strickland's book covers the gamut of topics relating to Warmblood breeds. The book is, in my opinion, a masterpiece of organization. Part I gives an introduction to the breeds, such as the Hanoverian, Holsteiner, Trakehner and others. Part II examines European quality control, including studbook registrations, inspections, performance ratings and stallion licensing. Part III is a roundup of other useful information, such as traits of Warmbloods versus those of other breeds, shopping for a Warmblood in Europe versus the United States, and trends in Warmblood breeding in this country.

The rich history of Warmbloods is evident in this book. In the sections about the breeds, the author provides a great deal of background—both political and horse breeding, which in fact sometimes overlapped. For example, when George II presided over both England and Hannover during the mid-18th century, he set out to breed horses good enough to match those of his fellow king and brother-in-law, Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia, who had established the royal stud Trakehnen in 1732. (Are you Hanoverian and Trakehner owners taking notes here?) The historical information gives an idea of the forces that shaped the breeds over the centuries, from one king's need for a lighter, faster troop horse with style, to a modern competitor's need for an athletic sporthorse with looks, ability and a sound mind. The author also provides information on characteristics of the breeds, their breeding practices and main bloodlines.

Strickland does her best with Part II, which tackles complicated issues surrounding breeding. Who is eligible for the stud book and who isn't? Is it fair to evaluate foals and yearlings, who

might look terrible one month and wonderful the next? How does the licensing of Trakehner stallions differ from that of Dutch Warmblood stallions? The book doesn't guarantee every answer, but is certainly a good starting point, and provides both a bibliography and listings of breed associations for those with further questions.

The text is well presented and easy to read. Instead of just piecing together material about the breeds, Strickland supplements it with countless interviews with owners, breeders and riders of Warmbloods from both sides of the Atlantic. These contributions give the reader the feeling that he has had the opportunity to talk Warmbloods with the best minds in the business—at a much lower cost than a plane ticket to Europe.

L.R.

THE BLUE AND THE BUFF, PORTRAIT OF AN ENGLISH HUNT. John Minoprio. Swan Hill Press, 101 Longden Rd., Shrewsbury, England SY3 9EB. 1992. \$60.00.

Mr. Minoprio's portrait is of the Duke of Beaufort's famed hunt, where the followers wear blue hunt coats with buff lapels.

The introductory chapter has a listing of Beaufort's former masters. It starts with the fifth Duke of Beaufort, who founded the pack in 1786, followed by the sixth through the eleventh dukes. All resided at the family estate, Badminton, in Gloucestershire. The supply of Beauforts ceased, however, in 1984 with the appointment of Captain Ian Farquhar as MFH and huntsman.

The photography in *The Blue and the Buff* is superlative. With marvelous color and detail, Minoprio's pictures cover every facet of hunt activities—the kennel, stables, farrier shop and the tack room, the Badminton Horse Trials and the point-to-point. Many photos are of key foxhunters and characters, and action in the field.

The first photograph in the book is of the much-loved tenth Duke of Beaufort, who was MFH from 1920 to 1974, and huntsman from 1929 to 1967. Known as "Master" to foxhunters the world over, he recorded 3,895 days of hunting in his hunt diaries. "I have devoted a large part of my life to foxhunting," said Beaufort in a masterful understatement.

Three pictures in *The Blue and the Buff* particularly caught my eye. "Beaufort Country" is a panoramic view of the hunt's followers crossing lovely pastureland. A two-page spread, it has great composition, resembling a "Z," with great depth.

My second favorite is of huntsman Farquhar and his daughter, Victoria, who is 10 or so. It was taken at day's end, after Farquhar has blown for home. His hounds are in the foreground; Victoria, on a cute gray pony, is at her father's side, perhaps comparing notes on the day's sport; the members of the field are in the rear.

My favorite photo, though, is probably one of Farquhar's least favorite. Captioned "Where Is Everybody," it is of a hound that has been left behind during a hunt, a situation not appreciated by huntsmen. The hound is perched on top of a stone wall, her muzzle skyward, crying for her peers.

P.W.

PLUGLY, THE HORSE THAT COULD DO ANYTHING. Cooky McClung, illus. by Barbara Tyler. Half Halt Press, 6416 Burkittsville Road, Middletown, Md. 21769. 1993. 48 pp. Illus. \$16.95.

Plugly, The Horse That Could Do Anything, is the age-old "ugly duckling" tale made especially appealing to young horse lovers by Cooky McClung. This story is geared to young riders, but anyone familiar with McClung knows that her special style, evident in her humorous columns in *The Chronicle of the Horse*, is a draw for all ages.

Plugly is the story of a not-so-handsome school horse who arrives at a riding stable and finds himself out of sorts among the prettier and more popular school horses. But on the day of the show, Plugly is able to prove to the riding students that he is a kind and talented horse underneath his rough exterior—an important reminder to all horse enthusiasts.

The story moves at a lively pace, and the bright watercolor illustrations by Barbara Tyler make the book even more attractive. A Jack Russell Terrier hidden in each scene adds another element of fun to an already enjoyable story. This book would make a wonderful children's gift.

K.B.

THE HALF HALT - DEMYSTIFIED!
Jane Savoie. Trafalgar Square Pub-
lishing, North Pomfret, VT 05053.
Tape 1: Learning the Half Halt;
Tape 2: Putting Your Horse on the
Bit. 45 minutes per tape. \$39.95
each.

The title of this pair of tapes, *The Half Halt Demystified!*, really says it all. At the beginning of Tape 1, teacher and trainer Jane Savoie explains that the most common complaint she hears from riders is that they don't really understand the half halt, and, in fact, are never quite sure if they have ever actually ridden one. When she asks the viewer, "How many of you have ridden around for years with your instructor shouting: 'half halt, half halt?'" this First Level rider was hooked. These two tapes set out to demystify the how, why and when of the half halt, and they succeed admirably.

On Tape 1, Savoie uses several different horse and rider combinations to illustrate the basic elements of the half halt. They give clear and lively demonstrations of the four prerequisites: that the horse be forward, straight, and in a good rhythm, and that the rider have good contact with the horse's mouth. They then go on to show how to use the individual elements that make up the aids for the half halt—the legs, seat and hands. When she describes the use of each of these, the camera focuses on that portion of the rider's anatomy, and the viewer can really see the tightening of the rider's stomach muscles as she uses her seat, or the closing of her hand into a fist, and the effect the movement has on the horse.

In addition to showing how to ride the half halt, she discusses why we do it, and again the riders demonstrate situations where the half halt is used to balance a horse, get its attention, or let it know that a transition is coming.

Tape 2 briefly reviews the why and how of the half halt, and then goes on to explain when to use it, particularly for "putting the horse on the bit." Again the riders give enlightening demonstrations of horses that are and are not on the bit, and then go on to show how a rider can superimpose a half halt over the aids given for different movements in order to keep the horse on the bit.

The video was taped outdoors with

beautiful backgrounds and colors, and is of very high quality. The variety of horses and riders used adds greatly to the enjoyment as well as the educational value of the tape.

This tape is particularly informative for dressage and event riders, but many jumper riders will find it helpful as well. It is a valuable addition to the library of any horseman who is interested in learning not only how to keep his horse in balance, but how to keep him obedient, attentive and athletic.

D. D.

JACKSON'S HUNTING HANDBOOK.
Edited by Tony Jackson. Jackson
Publications, 6 Church St., Punc-
knowle, Dorchester DT2 9BN,
United Kingdom. 1993. 130 pp.
Illus. \$20.00.

Jackson, a lifelong foxhunter who writes for England's *Horse and Hound* magazine, said his handbook is the product of a conversation with a visiting foxhunter who bemoaned the lack of information available on hunts, resulting in "sheer detective work required to hunt a country other than

one's own."

Detective work is no longer needed. Jackson's book gives information on 120 packs in Great Britain and Ireland—where to stay, the ability of hirelings, types of country and fences, and phone numbers of contacts.

I have often hunted with Ireland's Galway Blazers, and can speak for the accuracy of its description: "The country consists of small fields intersected with stone walls. The sport is brisk and exciting with a great deal of jumping; it's reputed to have 30 stone walls to the mile."

It was stated that 50-60 foxhunters go out with the Blazers on the typical Tuesday; 30-40 on Thursdays; 50-60 on Saturday. The capping fee is \$125. The report in the handbook concluded: "It's a happy, friendly hunt, and visitors are always welcome."

Jackson plans to publish the handbook annually. Included is a page for readers to comment on improvements for the handbook and to list their hunting experiences in 1993-1994, "both good and not so good," for future handbooks.

P.W.

BOOKS WANTED

American Racing Manual. 1985, 1987-.

American Steeplechasing. Elmont, N.Y.:

National Steeplechasing and Hunt Association. 1977-.

Armstead, Hugh. *The Artistic Anatomy of the Horse.* London: Balliere, Tindall and Cox, 1900.

Baily's Hunting Directory. 1984/85-present.

Brown, Sara Lowe. *The Horse Cruiser and the Rarey Method of Training Horses.* Columbus: F.J. Heer, 1925.

Christy, E.V.A. *Cross-Saddle and Side-Saddle.* London: Seeley Service, 1932.

Dossenbach, M. *Great Stud-Farms of the World.* New York: Morrow, 1977.

Edwards, Lionel. *Beasts of the Chase.* London: Putnam, 1950.

Grant, William W. *A Quarter Century of the Arapahoe Hunt.* N.p.: n.p., n.d.

Greville, Violet. *Ladies in the Field.* New York: Appleton, 1894.

Griswold, Frank Gray. *Horses and Hounds.* New York: Dutton, 1926.

Heywood, William. *Palio and Ponte.* London: Methuen, 1904.

Huls, Mary Ellen. *Design of Stables: A Bibliography.* Monticello, Ill.: Vance, 1988.

Isenbart, Hans-Heinrich. *The Imperial Horse.* New York: Knopf, 1976.

Jaffer, Nancy, ed. *Riding for America.* New York: Doubleday, 1990.

The Jockey Club. *Foals of . . .* 1986-present.

Montgomery, Rutherford. *Snowman.* Duell, 1962.

Proctor, Frank. *Fox Hunting in Canada, and Some Men Who Made It.* Toronto: Macmillan, 1929.

Scrutator. *Recollections of a Fox-Hunter.* London: Philip Alan, 1925.

Steeplechasing in America. Elmont, N.Y.: *Daily Racing Form.* 1973, 1975.

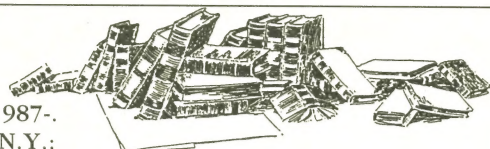
Steinkraus/Stoneridge. *Great Horses of the United States Equestrian Team.*

New York: Dodd, Mead, 1977.

Van Urk, J. Blan. *The Story of Rolling Rock.* New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1947.

Wetherby's. *Racing Calendar.* 1929-33, 1940, 1942-44, 1946.

Dictionaries: Portuguese, Catalan, Flemish, Hungarian, Swedish.



One of the biggest challenges was deciding when enough was enough, when to "end" the bibliography, Wells said.

"You just have to say, 'I've done all I can do with the tools at hand, and I have to stop and start getting this thing under control,' " she said. "It's really scary. In some instances, I went beyond my original scope, because there are gray areas for every topic. I had said I wouldn't include foxhunting but would include horse breeding. What about a book on breeding the hunter? Same for military subjects. There are places I lied. I said I wouldn't put

something in and did. Any bibliographer, no matter what the topic, has to make agonizing choices. You set up your own criteria and guidelines, but you also have to decide when you will break your own rules. You live dangerously, no matter what you do."

One might not think of bibliography as terribly dangerous occupation, but it does have its thorns. For Wells, a particular pet peeve is misrepresentation of "Wells numbers" in dealers' catalogues.

"From time to time I see catalogues with listings that say 'not in Wells,' and sometimes it's dirty pool," she said.

"The dealer is trying to make the book look more rare, when in fact the book is about something I said in my preface I would not include, like veterinary or military. What Wells included depended on what Wells was."

And what Wells was is what it will remain.

"The advent of online databases means there is little need for a supplement or a new edition," she said. "You can now locate a lot of information through the big online databases, and there are foreign libraries online, too. It's a new era, and a new way of getting into books, both rare and non-rare."



LAURA ROSE PHOTOS

Allison Arns of Danville, Calif., found a good book and a good corner.



Many visitors found the NSL's collection a browser's delight.

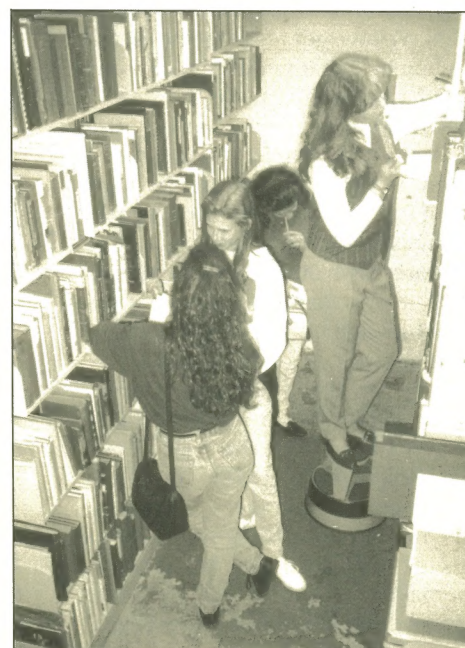
Pony Club Horses Around at the NSL

The NSL and *The Chronicle of the Horse* welcomed a busload of Pony Club enthusiasts from around the country for an evening in Middleburg on Feb. 3. The group took time out from the U.S. Pony Clubs' 1994 convention in Reston, Va., to trek to Vine Hill, the 1804 brick mansion that houses the Library and the magazine. The visit was followed by dinner at the historic Red Fox Inn.

As the visitors toured the building, from the Library's vault downstairs to the magazine's editorial and production offices upstairs, they were greeted by NSL's Peter Winants and Laura Rose, and the *Chronicle's* Rob Banner, Theresa Brown, Nancy Lee Comer, Mary Lee Robertson and John Strassburger. In addition, NSL members Norman and Joan Fine lent a hand by manning one of the displays of fine books set up throughout the building.

The Library's vault proved to be a popular spot among the Pony Clubbers and their adult leaders, at times crowding to a point that could only be termed "critical mass." What were they interested in? Books by Marguerite Henry and Norman Thelwell, books on combined training and saddlery, and books on show jumping and show jumping. We hope that these horse book lovers will return to the NSL when they are in our area again.

If your group is interested in visiting the NSL, contact Librarian Laura Rose at (703) 687-6542.



The NSL's vault was a popular place to look at and discuss books.

Book News and Reviews

WHITTINGHAM, THE STORY OF A THOROUGHBRED RACING LEGEND. Jay Hovdey. The Blood-Horse, Inc., P.O. Box 4038, Lexington, Ky. 40504. 1993. 210 pp. Illus. Index. Appendix. \$29.95.

Things weren't always easy for race horse trainer Charlie Whittingham. At five, his father committed suicide, and the future Hall of Fame horseman dropped out of school after the eighth grade to "walk hots" (cool out horses after works) at race tracks in California and Mexico.

Whittingham began training horses in the depths of the Great Depression. Hovdey wrote: "Back then, a third-place finish worth ten bucks or so meant enough pocket money to put beans in the belly and a little honey in the mash. He won or went hungry. So he won. And he came through it all with a flint-hard attitude that puts the horse first and everybody else a distant second . . . It didn't take long for Whittingham to learn the harder he worked, the luckier he got."

After seeing in the Marines in World War II, Whittingham became an assistant to famed trainer Horatio Luro. He said patience was the most important thing he learned from Luro. "There's a lot of things that can make a trainer impatient," said Whittingham. "Owners, for one. And himself, or his empty pockets. You've got to let the horse tell you when he's ready. Listen to anyone else and you're in trouble."

Whittingham's work ethic and respect for the welfare of the horse resulted in over 2,400 career wins through Oct. 4, 1993. He's had nearly 250 stakes-winning horses that have won more than 600 stakes races, including more than 250 stakes wins with Whittingham's favorite jockey, Willie Shoemaker, in the saddle.

Victory in the Kentucky Derby, however, eluded Whittingham until he was 73 in 1986, when the huge chestnut Ferdinand won. Hovdey brilliantly described Shoemaker shooting Ferdinand through a hole in a wall of horses at the head of the stretch: "Shoemaker shouted, 'hee-ya.' The colt responded like a Ferrari on a tight mountain road."

Sunday Silence, the near-black colt who in 1989 was Whittingham's second Derby winner, was extremely rank and hard to handle early in his career. Hovdey wrote: "He was like a kid on



SKIP DICKSTEIN PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE BLOOD-HORSE

Charlie Whittingham (r.) greets Sunday Silence as he approaches the winner's circle at the 1989 Kentucky Derby. Whittingham also trained 1986 Derby winner Ferdinand.

the first day of summer vacation, or a new Corvette fresh off the showroom floor. There was nothing classic or traditional about Sunday Silence . . . and no inclination toward behavior modification. He seemed to be some kind of prehistoric throwback, a living legend of the days when horses were hunted, when fear and hunger ruled their lives. In a classy stable of calm, earnest animals, Sunday Silence was Al Capone singing in the Vienna Boys Choir."

I sing the praises of this book. Like Whittingham, it's a winner.

P.W.

DEATH BY DRESSAGE. Carolyn Banks. Ballantine Books, 201 East 50th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022. 1993. 202 pp. Paperback. \$4.50.

Few would deny that the upper levels of dressage are home to some of the most cutthroat competition in the horse world. In *Death by Dressage*, mystery writer Carolyn Banks takes the sport one stride forward—to murder.

Texas horsewoman Robin Vaughan is happy enough plunking her mare Plum through the lower levels when a fellow dressage rider turns up dead—complete with the imprint of a horse shoe on her forehead, nail marks and all. An accident? Maybe, but in this case the victim was a spoiled dressage wannabe who tried to buy and bully her way in, creating a long list of enemies in the process.

Robin can't resist snooping, even if at times poor Plum is recruited as her partner in crime. The web that unwinds is as gnarly as a knotted hay net, but our sleuth's sense of humor, dedication to the sport and, most of all, nosy nature prevail.

If you spend time around dressage types, chances are the characters might seem a bit familiar, from the young Olympic hopeful who can effortlessly make a horse dance to the barking German clinician who "could probably crack walnuts with her thighs." The author, a dressage competitor herself, provides a constant stream of horse knowledge that only initiates share. For example, in speaking of clinics, Robin says:

"I went to one clinic where everyone came out of the arena crying. Not only that, but all day long I'd find people crying everywhere. Crying at the snack bar, crying in the john. And this clinic was conducted by someone that our local dressage club keeps trying to have come back. That's right, come back. Except—can you guess? The guy is booked solid. Booked on through the next thirty years."

If that sounds about right, wait until you read about Robin's adventures with a truck and trailer. Add such insight to a fast-paced mystery and the result is a book that horse lovers and dressage fans will enjoy putting to the test.

L.R.

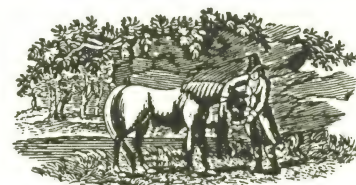
Seen in the Stacks . . .

- Sandy Izer of Williamsport, Md., and Linda Minnick of Middletown, Md., looked for historical material on jousting. Izer is the president of the National Jousting Association, which is headquartered in Mt. Solon, Va.
- F. Phillips Williamson, a Derrydale collector from Cambridge, Md., checked over some of the NSL's Derrydale books.
- John and Anny Harrison of Newmarket, Ontario, visited the NSL when January's snow and ice thwarted their Virginia foxhunting plans. John is the huntsman of the Toronto and North York Hunt.
- Sam Birch of Boyce, Va., researched Warmblood breeds including the Holsteiner and the Trakehner.
- Pat Latham Bach of Loomis, Calif., looked into books with ties to sport psychology, which she is studying in relation to horse sports.
- Tom Ryder of York, England, used the NSL's rare books to look into the history of early English horse breeds.
- Christine Taylor of Washington, D.C., looked into the career of Man 'War, racing's greatest equine legend.
- William Osier of Orlean, Va., looked at a collection of papers featuring the Old Dominion Hounds, of which he is a joint master.
- Mike Fuchs, a reporter from Manassas, Va., researched the history of early Virginia horse racing. Fuchs works for the *Potomac News*, which covers Haymarket, Va., one of the sites under consideration for a future track.
- Dawn Haney of Middleburg used the NSL's sporting art books in developing ideas for magazine illustrations.
- Douglas Rawnsley of Danville, Pa., enjoyed a look at the NSL's collection of racing serials, which he also collects.
- Robert Edwards, an Arabian sport horse breeder from Arcola, Va., browsed through the books on Arabians.
- Mary Phillips Coker of Middleburg looked into books on sporting art.
- Nick Nichols and Brigid Sullivan of Rochelle, Va., perused books on cavalry and veterinary history.
- Mary Law-Douglas of Plattsburgh, N.Y., researched American jockeys from 1820-1920, in preparation for a doctoral dissertation at SUNY-Binghamton.

- Kevin O'Neill and Richard Rinehart of Indianapolis, Ind., enjoyed books on foxhunting and show jumping.
- Craig and Rita Stevens of Suffolk, Va., enjoyed working with rare horse books from the new von Hunersdorf collection.
- Michael Sinclair-Smith of Montreal looked for good ideas for his next book, a novel about foxhunting.
- Charles L. Kuhn, Dr. R. Burns Ross, Ann Ross and Dot Bailey of the Beneficial-Hodson Library at Hood College in Frederick, Md., made a field trip to the NSL. Kuhn is director of the Hood library; Dr. Ross is the preservation officer; Bailey and Ann Ross assist in the book repair lab.
- Libby Stokes of Castle Rock, Colo., and Hoppy Stearns of Conowingo, Md., took a break from foxhunting in Virginia to take a look at the NSL's foxhunting books.
- Jane de Roquancourt, an American now living in Newport, Ireland, also browsed through the foxhunting collection during a Virginia hunting tour.
- Weiping Li, an equine artist from Beijing, China, found information of the Akhal-Teke, a rare horse breed that survives today from ancient times, as well as books on the horse in art.
- Carol Masek of Waterford, Va., Margaret Kraus of Round Hill, Va., and Valerie McGhee of Middleburg looked into a variety of horse topics, including show jumping, equitation and dressage.
- Some of the NSL's other recent visitors were: Ruth Lynn Youngwirth of Leesburg, Va.; Janie Lynn Rentz of Leesburg; Cleo Converse of Middleburg; Dr. William Katz of Upperville, Va.; Robin Weiss of Canton Center, Ct.; Florence Hillman of Middleburg; Herbert J. Richman of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Sharon Mills of Haymarket, Va.; the Carr Family of Santa Cruz, Calif.; Shannon Powell of Daly City, Calif.; Ann Furness of Cambridge, Mass.; Eleanor Chase of Upperville, Va.; Jerry Miller of Lexington, Ky.; Mark Winchester of Annandale, Va.; Irving Abb of Frederick, Md.; Jo and Michael Motion of Middleburg; Nancy Kain of Lovettsville, Va.; and, last but not least, the staff of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine, located just upstairs from us here in Middleburg.

Phone/Mail

- Nettie White of Richmond, Va., researching early Virginia breeder John Hoskins and his horses, as background for an application for historical site status for a Hoskins family home in Essex County, Va.
- Steve Zimmerman of NBC Sports, calling from Santa Anita Race Track in search of poem or prose to accompany a special segment of the Breeder's Cup race broadcast in November.
- Thomas Cork of Kleinburg, Canada, researching the histories of the Toronto and North York Hunt and the Eglington and Caledon Hunt.
- Jenny and Jessica Souers of Baton Rouge, La., researching the history of American horse showing.
- Bill Thomas of Ocala, Fla., researching Brandon, a plantation on the James River in Virginia. The *American Turf Register* had a number of references to Brandon.
- Peter Cook, a University of New Hampshire professor from Berwick, Maine, researching cockfighting and beagles.
- Walter W. Brewster of Glyndon, Md., researching a trophy presented at the 1907 Green Spring Valley Steeplechase, which was held at Pimlico Race Track. The race trophy is now in the collection of the Elkridge Club, Baltimore.
- Hope Millington of Bonn, Germany, researching dressage and training books.
- Cathy Kelleher of Tuckwila, Wash., researching Man o' War.



How much do you think we spend altogether on our libraries, public or private, as compared with what we spend on our horses?

— John Ruskin (1819-1900),
British writer, critic and artist

In January the American Horse Shows Association honored NSL board member William Steinkraus with the Jimmy A. Williams Trophy for the AHSA's Lifetime Achievement Award. During his show jumping career, Steinkraus competed on five Olympic teams, winning three team medals, an individual gold medal and over 100 international competitions. He served as president and chairman of the U.S. Equestrian Team for 20 years, and has written a number of books about riding. Steinkraus, a collector of books on the history of horsemanship, joined the NSL board in 1992.

Equestrian book publisher and seller Joseph A. Allen of London was honored for his achievements at the British Driving Society's show in Windsor Great Park in June. The City Livery Company and the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers presented him with an award and testimonial for "a lifetime of service to the equestrian world." HRH Prince Michael of Kent presented the award for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the BDS. Allen, 84, founded The Horseman's Bookshop in 1926.

Stormy, a brown and white daughter of Misty, the Chincoteague pony made famous in the 1947 children's classic *Misty of Chincoteague*, died Nov. 24 in Waynesboro, Pa. Stormy was born in 1962 near Pocomoke City, Md., and lived nearly all her life on Chincoteague Island off Virginia's Eastern Shore. She was the third and last foal of Misty, and the subject of Marguerite Henry's 1962 book *Stormy, Misty's Foal*, which sold more than 12 million copies.

Spur magazine, which ceased publication last fall, made a comeback with a January/February issue under the new ownership of Morris Communications Corporation, Augusta, Ga. Morris owns a variety of publications, including *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *The Quarter Horse News* and 17 newspapers. Former managing editor Cathy Laws has been named editor.

The winter's ice and snow haven't kept the NSL's books from traveling to other libraries and their patrons through interlibrary loan. Some of the titles and their destinations: Sandy Rabinowitz' *Driven Dressage with the Single Horse* to the Vancouver Island Regional Library, Nanaimo, British Columbia; Rosemary Archer's *The Crabbet Arabian Stud* to the Salina Public Library, Salina, Kan.; Harvey Riley's *The Mule*, to the Charles H. Stone Memorial Library, Pilot Mountain, N.C.; George Waring's *Whip and Spur* to the Poquoson Public Library, Poquoson, Va.; Herbert Atkinson's *Cockfighting and Game Fowl* to the

Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, Ironton, Ohio; Jocelyn Lucas' *Hunt and Working Terriers* to the Aiken County Public Library, Aiken, S.C.

Are you traveling on the Internet, or another avenue of the "information superhighway"? If you are currently tapped into any horse-related online computer services, let us know. We'd like to share information on e-mail, horse-related electronic bulletin boards and other online services in an upcoming newsletter.

"Lots" of Books Sold

Thanks to all NSL Friends who participated in the 1993 Fall Book Sale, the Library's annual fundraiser, which netted \$7,500. Finances aside, we always enjoy two other aspects of the sale: the chance to talk books with you, and the opportunity to gain yards and yards of shelf space! Some book sale stats:

Nearly 200 lots were sold. This year a "lot" ranged from a single small horse book to a collection of over 200 magazines.

There was an eight-way tie for the most popular item. These lots received six bids each: Carreno's *Clotheshorse*; Fairley's *Racing in Art*; Blew's *History of Steeplechasing*; Taplin's *Gentleman's Stable Directory*; Taplin's *Sporting Dictionary*; *Polo* magazine issues; Bull's *Best Horses of 1945*; and Bull's *Best Horses of 1947*.

Six other items received five bids each: Fairfax-Blakeborough's *Redcar Racecourse*; Forester's *Horse of America*; Reeves' *Foxhunting Formalities*; *The Blood Horse's Quarter Century of American Racing*; The Jockey Club's *American Stud Book Volume VIII* (1902); and the Masters of Foxhounds Association's 1928 yearbook.

The highest bid was \$1,450.

The lowest bid was \$2.00.

Fifty-two NSL members placed bids in the sale.

A number of locals picked up their winning bid purchases at the NSL, but we also shipped out almost 60 boxes of books—weighing up to 32 pounds—to locations such as Woodinville, Wash.; Hamel, Minn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Wamego, Kan.; Carmel, Calif.; Louisville, Ky.; Ossian, Ind.; Baird, Texas; New York, N.Y.; Sturbridge, Mass.; and Yorkshire, England. The NSL thanks you (and we think UPS does, too).

Special thanks again to the authors, publishers and others who donated 63 books, including presentation copies and new releases, that were a true asset to this year's sale: Carolyn Banks, Katey Barrett, Lerner Publications, Raleigh Burroughs, Major-General Jonathan R. Burton, Richard D. Carreno, Judy Richter, *The Chronicle of the Horse*, Charles de Kunffy, Bertalan de Nemethy, Barbara Teichmann Engel, John Fairley, the Blue Ridge Hunt, Dick Francis, Laura Rose, Peter Winants, The Book Chase, Max Gahwyler, Ben Hardaway, Cherry Hill, Northland Publishing, Charlesbridge Publishing, Half Halt Press, Alexander Mackay-Smith, Roger Maher, Marilyn Massey, Cooky McClung, Collins Publishers, Paul Mellon, George H. Morris, Arthur W. Arundel, Hilda Nelson, J.A. Allen, Judy Richter, Hyperion Books, Paula Rodenas, Deborah E. Rubin, Sam Savitt, Trafalgar Square, Migi Serrell, Ellen B. Wells, Steven D. Price, William Steinkraus, Thomasson-Grant, Heather Smith Thomas, Raymond Woolfe, The Green Spring Valley Hunt Club and James L. Young.

Celebrate National Library Week, April 17-23, with a trip to one of your favorite libraries—perhaps your local branch library, a library at your place of business, a college library, or the NSL. This year the week's theme is "Libraries Change Lives." Check with libraries in your area for special events.

While you're busy celebrating, scores of librarians from around the country will swarm Capitol Hill April 19 for the 19th annual "Library Legislative Day." They'll meet early in the morning to discuss their strategy and then head off for a day of visits to their elected officials, where they'll discuss library-related issues like public funding, the national information highway, copyright, access to government documents and freedom of information.

In addition, International Special Librarians Day will be held April 21.

The following is a list of exhibitions that NSL members may find of interest. A contact number is included; we encourage you to check schedules and hours before attending.

D.C. WASHINGTON. The National Building Museum. "Barn Again!" March 17-Sept. 11, 1994. (202) 272-2448. This exhibit explores the history and construction of barns across America, including their symbolism, uses and future. Models and parts of barns, as well as photographs, posters and plans, illustrate the effects of ethnic heritage and changes in agriculture on barns. Advertisements, art works, movie stills and toys are among the items that show the barn's popularity in our culture. The exhibit opened during National Agriculture Week, March 14-20.

KY. LEXINGTON. International Museum of the Horse, Kentucky Horse Park. "American Academy of Equine Art 15th Annual Juried Exhibition." April 8-May 22, 1994. (703) 687-6701 or (606) 233-4303. The William G. Kenton Jr. Gallery showcases equine art in a variety of media by AAEE members and invited guests.

KY. LOUISVILLE. Kentucky Derby Museum. "The Imperial Russian Horse: Equine Art from the Reign of the

Czars." April 11-September, 1994. (502) 637-1111. In its first loan to a museum outside Russia, the Museum of Horsebreeding in Moscow lends a collection of over 40 paintings and bronzes by Russia's most celebrated 19th-century equine artists, including N.E. Sverchkoff (1817-1898). The display, which includes works on racing, agrarian, military and sporting subjects, will travel to other museums around the country through 1996.

MD. BALTIMORE. Maryland Historical Society. "The Maryland Hunt Cup: 100 Years of America's Greatest Steeplechase." April 29-Sept. 5, 1994. (301) 685-3750. As part of the celebration of the centennial of the first running of the race, the Maryland Historical Society hosts an exhibition of paintings, drawings, photographs, trophies, silks, saddles and more surrounding this important and challenging race. This year's Hunt Cup will be run April 30 in Glyndon, Md.

N.H. EXETER. Phillips Exeter Academy Library. "Tally Ho! Five Hundred Years of Sporting Books, Prints, Manuscripts & Ephemera from the Collection of John H. Daniels '39." March 28-June 10, 1994. (608) 772-4311. This sporting collector's wide range of interests is illustrated by some of the items on display in this show: the first five editions of Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*; illustrations by John Leech, Sir Alfred Munnings, Will James and Paul Brown; an original manuscript by Theodore Roosevelt on riding to hounds with the Meadow Brook Drag; 17th-century sporting books; and much more, including peep-shows, panoramas and fore-edge paintings.

N.M. RUIDOSO DOWNS. Anne C. Stradling Museum of the Horse. "Treasures of the Track: Presentation Silver from the Collections of the National Museum of Racing." May 6-October, 1994. (505) 378-4142. A collection of silver racing trophies that don't simply delight the eye; they also tell tales of 200 years of track history.

NY. SARATOGA SPRINGS. National Museum of Racing. "Master Thoroughbred Paintings from the Collection." June 24-October, 1994. (518) 584-0400. More than 30 works highlighting the Thoroughbred, by such masters as Alken, Munnings, Stull, Stainforth, Troye and Voss. The



"A Riding Jockey," an 1867 oil on canvas by master painter Nickolas E. Sverchkoff, is exhibited for the first time outside Russia in the Kentucky Derby Museum's "The Imperial Russian Horse" show.

museum will also host "Horsing Around with the Arts," a juried show of the work of local student artists, from May 15-May 30.

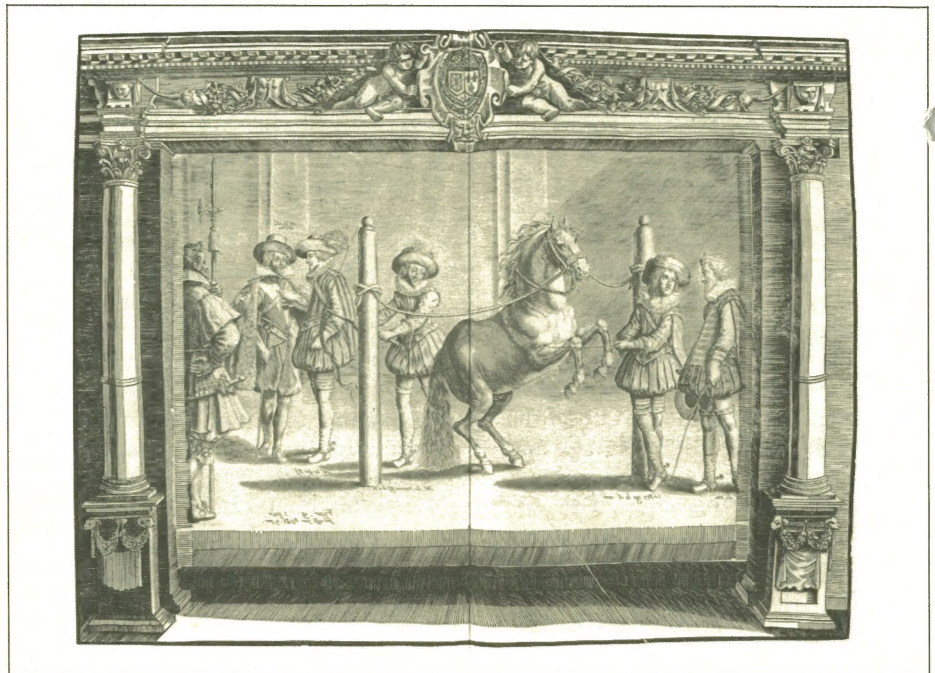
PA. PHILADELPHIA. The Philadelphia Antiques Show. "In the Sporting Tradition." April 8-13, 1994. (610) 388-2070. The 1994 loan exhibit at this year's show includes 18th- and 19th-century antiques relating to fox-hunting, waterfowl shooting, upland game hunting, fly fishing and Adirondack camps. These objects, such as stirrup cups, hunting horns, hunt bowls, Adirondack furniture, fishing rods, rifles and related paintings, prints and photographs, are on loan from museums and private collectors.

PA. PITTSBURGH. Carnegie Museum of Natural History. "Art and the Animal." March 12-May 8, 1994. (412) 622-3313 or 622-3131. The Society of Animal Artists' 33rd annual traveling exhibition features 65 pieces of contemporary animal art.

TX. AMARILLO. American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum. "Treasures from the Permanent Collection." December 18, 1993-May 30, 1994. (806) 376-5181. A special peek at artwork, tack, photographs and other artifacts that are part of the Heritage Center's permanent collection and archives, but not part of a permanent exhibit.

TX. FORT WORTH. Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. "Thundering Hooves: Five Centuries of Horse Power in the American West." Jan. 21-May 1, 1994. (817) 732-1631. Features more than 400 objects relating to the region's four major horse cultures: Spanish conquistadores, Mexican vaqueros, Southern Plains Indians and North American cowboys. Many of the objects have never been on public display before. The exhibit's next stop is The Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, N.M., June 4-Sept. 4.

VA. RICHMOND. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. "This Sporting Life." March 1-June 20, 1994. (804) 367-0852. Third in a series of rotating exhibitions from the Paul Mellon Collection of British Sporting Art, this show features approximately 60 18th- and early 19th-century drawings, watercolors and prints of sport in Great Britain, including racing, 'chasing, fishing, shooting, boxing, fencing and rowing.



William Steinkraus' gift, a book by French riding master Antoine de Pluvinet, includes this beautiful engraving of Pluvinet (far left) teaching 16-year-old King Louis XIII about work between the pillars.

Gift Horses

Next time you visit the Library, let us share our newest treasure with you. A hole in the NSL's rare book collection was filled recently when NSL board member William Steinkraus donated a copy of Antoine de Pluvinet's *L'Instruction du Roy en l'Exercice de Monter a Cheval*. Steinkraus' gift, printed in 1629 in Paris, includes Pluvinet's text in both French and German, and Crispin de Pas' exquisite plates of horsemen working between the pillars, jousting and more. Thank you, Mr. Steinkraus, for helping the NSL to offer such a wonderful book to its patrons.

The NSL is working on expanding its collection of videotapes on equine subjects. We have received videos from the U.S. Pony Clubs, the American Quarter Horse Association and the United States Dressage Federation, and will continue pursuing new titles.

And books! This issue contains a lengthy list of new arrivals in all areas, thanks to the generosity of NSL members and supporters. Among the many donors to the NSL over the past few months are: Ed Bassett of Carmel, Calif.; Mary Phillips Coker of Middleburg; Sandra B. Izer of Williamsport, Md.; Capt. John H. Fritz of Gladstone, N.J.; Steven Price of New York, N.Y.; Douglas Rawnsley of Danville, Pa.;

Libby Stokes of Castle Rock, Colo.; J.A. Allen & Co. of London, England; Craig Stevens of Suffolk, Va.; *The Chronicle of the Horse*, Middleburg; Eleanor Kellon of Pequea, Pa.; Turner Reuter of Middleburg; William M. Hill of Richmond, Va.; and Jill K. Hassler of Colora, Md.

Thank you, donors. Your gifts are enjoyed by those who use the library's collections for research and pleasure reading. We very much appreciate your support.

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The Library, which was founded in 1954, has a collection of over 10,000 volumes dating from 1528. Subjects include veterinary care, dressage, eventing, show jumping, breeding, foxhunting, polo and racing. Also present are over 600 books on sporting art and a fine collection of art including work by Edward Troye, Ben Marshall, Frank Voss and Paul Brown.

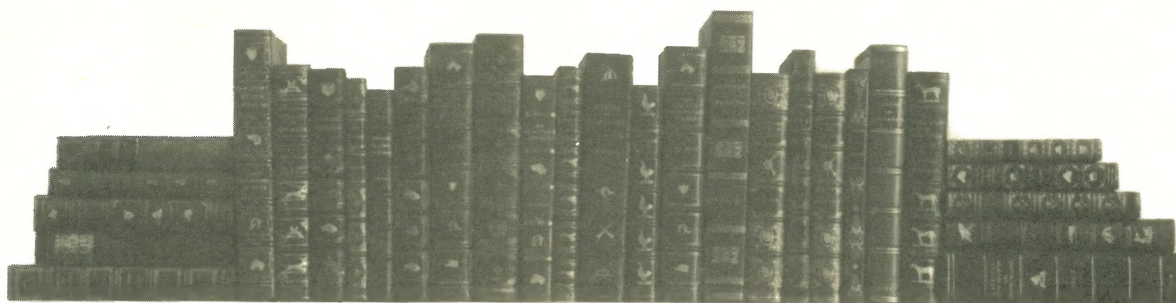
- You will receive the National Sporting Library Newsletter, which features articles on contemporary and historic issues relating to the horse. The Newsletter also has reviews and listings of newly published horse books, as well as descriptions of books and art recently donated to the Library.

- You will bid on books in the National Sporting Library's Annual Duplicate Book Sale. Each fall members receive a list of books for this silent auction, which is restricted to Friends of the Library. Past sales have included titles such as: *Thoughts On Hunting* by Peter Beckford; *Form Over Fences* by Jane Dillon; *The Maryland Hunt Cup* by Stuart Rose; *Grooming to Win* by Susan Harris; *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon; *Steeplechasing* by John Hislop; *Training Hunters, Jumpers and Hacks* by Col. Harry Chamberlin; and *My Dancing White Horses* by Alois Podhajsky.

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